United Nations E/C.2/2011/2/Add.15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 November 2010
English
Original: French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2011 regular session
31 January-9 February 2011

Quadrennial reports for the period 2006-2009 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

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1. Fondation Chantal Biya

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Established in 1994, the Fondation Chantal Biya is an apolitical not-for-profit association registered under Cameroonian law which is active in the Republic of Cameroon in the areas of health, education and social welfare.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The main aim of the Fondation is to help social groups in need. Its purposes are: (a) prevention and relief of human suffering; (b) protection, education and social and health measures to assist mothers and children; (c) assistance to the poor suffering from disease; (d) assistance and supervision of orphans and abandoned children; (e) assistance to the elderly; (f) poverty eradication measures; (g) protection of the family; and (h) provision of equipment and medication to needy hospitals and health centres.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

The association has helped to achieve the goals assigned to the Economic and Social Council by: promoting access to health care and clean drinking water for needy inhabitants of rural and urban areas; launching a grass-roots programme of home care for families affected by HIV/AIDS in Yaoundé; building schools in the various regions of Cameroon; helping the indigent and vulnerable population groups; providing assistance targeting those affected by disasters.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The association took part in the work of the forty-sixth session of the Commission for Social Development in 2008. It also participated in various side events connected with the General Assembly in September 2008 and 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The association is developing extensive targeted cooperation with United Nations agencies that have offices in Cameroon, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For example, it is cooperating with UNICEF in the campaign against HIV/AIDS, child vaccination and grass-roots monitoring of families affected by that pandemic.

C. Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. The association is helping poor, needy, elderly and vulnerable persons. It has helped girls and women in rural areas to develop revenue-generating activities. For example, it has distributed improved seeds and provided training in farming and animal husbandry techniques.

Goal 2. It has built four new primary schools, bringing the total to nine, at a cost of about $900,000.

Goal 3. Improved seeds costing $12,000 have been given to women's associations. Women and girls in rural areas have also received training in animal husbandry techniques and in information and communication technologies.

Goal 4. The association has organized 52,048 medical visits and 27,579 hospitalizations without charge or at lower cost.

Goal 5. It has assisted over 10,000 pregnant women and organized 800 endoscopic surgical procedures and 500 classical surgical procedures and 250 breast cancer surgeries.

Goal 6. It has focused in this context on the prevention of mother-to-child transmission. It has achieved encouraging results.

III. Additional information

Because of the encouraging results achieved by the association, in 2008 its founder and President was appointed to be a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador.

2. Women in Law and Development in Africa

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

The organization is a Pan African women's rights and development-related network, created in 1990 in Harare.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

Aims of the organization: (a) to establish and facilitate communication among the members of the network in the areas of legal awareness, legal and policy reform and legal services; (b) to clarify and provide effective ways of using the law and other strategies as an organizational and educational tool at the local, national and regional levels; (c) to offer training and advice to local groups for the design and enhancement of legal programmes or any other programme and strategy; (d) to coordinate the compilation and exchange of case studies and findings of legal and other research; (e) to establish and maintain a regional rapid response system for dealing with serious violations of women's rights; and (f) to promote exchanges and

collaborate with any other regional or international organization with similar or complementary purposes to those of the organization.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The organization's regional office was moved from Harare to Lusaka in 2009.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

From 2006 to 2008, the network conducted a three-year programme in seven West African countries on good governance and participation of women. In 2007, by organizing two workshops and providing consultants, the network helped women's rights organizations in Mauritania and the Niger to prepare their shadow reports for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. The reports were submitted to the thirty-eighth session of the Committee.

In 2007 in Kenya, the network conducted activities relating to the 2006 Sexual Offences Act. It also developed a reference manual for prosecutors and a training manual for criminal investigation officers. From November 2007 to October 2008, in the United Republic of Tanzania, the network implemented a project entitled "Combating gender-based violence". In Zambia in 2006, as part of its programme on the participation of women in politics, the network produced a report on the participation of women in the recent electoral process.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The network participated in the fiftieth to fifty-third sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. In addition, it organized parallel panels and/or workshops on the issues of the year and the programmes or activities organized by the network on those issues.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The network participated in the various African Union summits, at which it engaged in advocacy work. In 2008, it participated in the process of evaluation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. In 2008, it participated in the subregional consultation for West Africa organized in Dakar from 5 to 8 October by the Regional Office for West Africa of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The network participated in the Beijing+15 evaluation process and, in this connection and on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the fifth anniversary of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, produced a shadow report on the implementation of those three instruments by the African States. The network participates in the Secretary-General's campaign entitled "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women".

In 2006-2007, with the support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the network designed indicators on implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

C. Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals

The project launched by the network in January 2009, entitled "Using the law as a tool for the empowerment of rural women in West Africa" was financed by the MDG3 Fund promoting full attainment of Goal 3.